

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NASSAU 01311 142037Z

73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 JUSE-00 SCA-01 NSC-10 SPC-03

SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00

PRS-01 DRC-01 /066 W

----- 097298

O 142020Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4610

UNCLAS NASSAU 1311

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV EFIN BF US

SUBJ: GCOB STATEMENT ON ROBERT VESCO

REF: NASSAU 1306

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY ATTORNEY
GENERAL PAUL ADDERLEY: QUOTE

DURING THE PAST MONTHS, THE BAHAMAS HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO A
CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ILL-INFORMED COMMENT BOTH INSIDE AND
OUTSIDE THE BAHAMAS IN CONNECTION WITH THE EFFORTS WHICH HAVE
SO FAR BEEN MADE BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TO SECURE THE RETURN OF MR. ROBERT L. VESCO TO THAT COUNTRY.
MOST, IF NOT ALL OF THIS COMMENTS HAS BY ACCIDENT OR DESIGN
BEEN CALCULATED TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT THE JUDICIARY
IN THE BAHAMAS HAS IN SOME WAY BEEN AT FAULT OR INDEED HAS
IMPROPERLY CONSPIRED TO REFUSE TO HAVE HIM RETURNED TO THE
UNITED STATES.

AS THE SUBJECT OF EXTRADITION IS A MATTER FOR WHICH I HAVE
RESPONSIBILITY, I HAVE TO CORRECT SUCH ILL-INFORMED COMMENT
WHICH MAY REFLECT UNFAVOURABLY ON THE JUDICIARY IN THE BAHAMAS
AND MAKE PUBLIC SUCH FACTS AS ARE IN MY POSSESSION WHICH WILL
CORRECT SUCH MISCONCEPTION. EXTRADITION IS A JUDICIAL, NOT
A POLITICAL EXERCISE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NASSAU 01311 142037Z

THE MATTER OF EXTRADITION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE BAHAMAS IS BASED ON LONG-ESTABLISHED PRACTICE AND PRECEDENT AND IS REGULATED BY THE EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DATED DECEMBER 22, 1931 AND WHICH WAS RATIFIED IN LONDON ON AUGUST 4, 1932. UPON THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE BAHAMAS ON JULY 10, 1973, THE BAHAMAS SUCCEEDED TO THIS TREATY AND THEREBY AGREED TO BE BOUND BY ITS TERMS IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

THE PROCESS OF INITIATING THE EXTRADITION OF A PERSON IS COMMENCED BY A REQUISITION FOR SURRENDER FROM ONE GOVERNMENT TO ANOTHER. THEREAFTER, THE PROCESS IS A MATTER FOR THE JUDICIARY. THE REQUEST MAY BE FOLLOWED BY THE ISSUANCE OF A WARRANT FOR THE ARREST, THE ARREST AND THE HEARING OF SUCH EVIDENCE AS IS PRODUCED IN A MAGISTRATE'S COURT. IT IS THEN FOR THE COURT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE BAHAMAS TO JUSTIFY EXTRADITION.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PROCEDURE WITH REGARD TO MR. VESCO, A REQUEST FOR HIS ARREST ALLEGING A CHARGE OF FRAUD WAS MADE TO THE GOVERNOR OF THE BAHAMAS DATED JUNE 9, 1973 ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR HIS EXTRADITION TO THE UNITED STATES.

ON JUNE 15, 1973, THE GOVERNOR DIRECTED AN ORDER TO THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE, WILTON E. HERCULES, REQUIRING THE ISSUANCE OF A WARRANT FOR THE ARREST OF ROBERT L. VESCO "PROVIDED THAT THE CONDITIONS OF THE EXTRADITION ACT, 1870 RELATING TO THE ISSUE OF SUCH WARRANT ARE IN YOUR JUDGEMENT COMPLIED WITH."

ON JUNE 21, 1973, THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE INFORMED THE GOVERNOR BY LETTER THAT IN HIS JUDGEMENT HE HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN SUFFICIENT INFORMATION AND NO EVIDENCE WAS SUPPLIED TO HIM TO JUSTIFY HIS ISSUING A WARRANT. THE CHIEF MAGISTRATE, ACTING IN HIS DISCRETION, REQUESTED THAT HE BE SUPPLIED WITH SUCH INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD SATISFY HIM THAT A WARRANT OUGHT TO BE ISSUED.

ON JUNE 22, 1973, THE GOVERNOR COMMUNICATED THIS INFORMATION
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NASSAU 01311 142037Z

TO THE UNITED STATES CONSUL GENERAL, AND THERE THE MATTER HAS REMAINED SINCE. NO FURTHER COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED BY THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

UNQUOTE.
SPIERS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NASSAU01311
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730934/aaaaayua.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NASSAU 1306
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GCOB STATEMENT ON ROBERT VESCO
TAGS: PGOV, EFIN, BF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005